



# Hooves for a Cure

October 6, 2007

By Leigh Ann Matthews, the Southwest Horse Trader of OK

The woods and trails across Oklahoma will be laced in pink October 6, as area trail riders join together to raise funds, awareness and fund mammograms to fight Breast Cancer with "Hooves For A Cure." The idea had been on the mind of Skiatook trail rider Debbie Briggs' mind for quite some time, but when her sister was diagnosed with breast cancer, the wheels began rolling to implement the program. With the help of fellow trail riders and members of The Bad Girls Trail Riding Club, Oklahoma Equestrian Trail Riding Association, Duncan Lake Riding Club, Bushwhackers and Cowgirls UP in Arkansas/Missouri, the rides are scheduled, not only in Oklahoma, but also in Arkansas and Missouri. All rides begin at 10:00 a.m. October 6, but each ride will involve some differences due to location and local participation.

Some participants will ride for "honorees" of the event, most of which include the riders' friends and relatives affected by breast cancer. Several riders are also breast cancer survivors. All riders are encouraged to wear and tack up with as much pink as possible. The minimum donation is \$10.00 per person and doesn't include any fees charged at some of the locations. Current Coggins is required and will be checked at the gates for each ride.

"It didn't take much once I started talking about the idea," Briggs said. "I asked for some help from the ladies of BGTRC and other clubs I was aware of, then with mostly word of mouth publicity, people just jumped in to help. The basic idea was to get as many people on horseback on October 6th, donating \$10.00 each. I am amazed at what has happened so far. I have no idea how many riders will participate, but it will be amazing to see the

final numbers. I really want to thank all the women who have stepped up to make this become a reality."

Ride locations include Sportsman Lake near Seminole, OK; Lake Carl Blackwell near Stillwater, OK; Oolagah Lake near Oolagah, OK; Duncan Lake near Duncan, OK; Last Hurrah Ranch near Warner, OK; J-D Riding Camp near Octavia, OK; Huckleberry Ridge Conservation Area near Pineville, MO and the Wedington Unit of the Ozark National Forest near Siloam Springs, AR. For contact information on each ride, refer to the TRAIL RIDE calendar listings or visit [www.sierraranchok.com/HoovesforaCure](http://www.sierraranchok.com/HoovesforaCure). A paypal account is set up on the website to accept donations for those who can't ride and merchandise is also available at the Café Press link. The profits from sales will also be included in the donation fund.

Everyone involved agrees that it would really be awesome if other horsemen and women, ropers, barrel racers, team penners, etc. joined the efforts by wearing pink October 6.